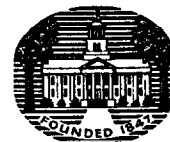


FEB 11 1972

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240



College of Medicine
Department of Microbiology
Area 319: 353-5596

9 February 1972

Professor Joshua A. Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University Medical School
Stanford, California 94304

Dear Josh:

When we were on the conference call for the ASM Foundation you mentioned the BW-Convention worked out in Geneva and passed in December by the United Nations.

I know you worked with the Conference in Geneva a couple years ago on the preparation of the WHO report Health Aspects of Chemical and Biological Weapons, which was published as a booklet. I have followed the work and actions on BW closely the past several years. Now that the Convention has been approved by the United Nations I feel we should do what we can to see that various countries ratify the treaty.

Also I believe microbiologists should accept the challenge that is implied in Article X of the Convention. Thus I have written Norman Gibbons as Secretary-General of IAMS to ask that the officers of the association consider the matter.

Also, I have written an editorial for the February issue of Biomedical News, a copy of which is enclosed.

I have read several of your good articles on the editorial page of the Washington Post, and I encourage you to write something in the near future on ratification of the treaty. I know several members of Congress read your column so you can do a service to mankind by promoting this matter.

I am not sure what may happen to the Convention. I hope countries will ratify the treaty, but I am not sure scientists and politicians will accept the responsibility that goes with expanding or supporting the benefits that may come from the peaceful uses of microorganisms.

With kind regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

J. R. Porter

JRP:sh
Enclosure